Though attorney Matt Murdock is *blind*, his other senses function with *superhuman sharpness* – his *radar sense* guides him over every obstacle. With amazing fighting skills, he stalks the streets at night in relentless pursuit of justice as

DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

PREVIOUSLY IN DAREDEVIL...

The Man without Fear is now a man with nothing to lose.

Matt Murdock was aimless – his marriage was failing, his partnership with P.I. Dakota North cost his professional and personal life; the drunken, blind and possibly immortal sensei Master Izo targeted Daredevil in his war against The Hand and finally he was forced to temporarily team up with his old enemy the Kingpin to take The Hand down – only to take control of The Hand in the process.

Shortly afterwards, a mysterious ninja killed a corrupt judge and two corrupt cops – two associates of Norman Osborn, H.A.M.M.E.R. director and de facto leader of the superhuman community. Enraged, Osborn sent his top assassin, Bullseye, to kill Daredevil. Bullseye lured Daredevil to a trap, detonating a bomb in an apartment building full of families that were holding out against an Oscorp development site. The families were killed and Daredevil barely escaped alive.

Matt realized he needed The Hand and embraced his role as leader. But his leadership required a sacrifice – and he lead The Hand to their target, Master Izo, whom they killed in combat. With an army of Hand ninjas at his command, Matt decided to take a stand against Osborn and corruption, leading his forces to defend Hell's Kitchen and New York.

But there are dangers around every corner – the Kingpin has marshaled his forces to take back the underworld, corruption runs rampant in the police department – and as Daredevil reveals to his associates, Black Tarantula and White Tiger, Master Izo has survived his assassination attempt – and waits in hiding to make his move...

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NO ONE GETS OUT!
S.W.A.T.
OSCORP CARGO DOCK.
MANHATTAN.
THEY GOTTA BE CRAZY! ALL THEY GOT IS SWORDS AN' KNIVES!
LIGHT 'EM UP!
AAAGH!

OOF--!
AAAGH--!
STAY DOWN.

SEE? LIKE I TOLD YOU. COPS AND CROOKS IN CAHOOTS, RUNNING SMACK RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF THE CITY.
THERE AIN'T NO LAW IN THIS TOWN. CRIME'S RUNNING WILD...
BUT IT DOESN'T GET REPORTED 'CAUSE THE N.Y.P.D. ARE IN ON IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT, TARANTULA. THERE MUST BE OVER A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF HEROIN HERE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH IT...?
PUT IT IN THE RIVER, WHITE TIGER.
AND WHAT OF THOSE WHO WOULD PEDDLE SUCH POISON? SHALL WE MAKE OF THE RIVER A GRAVE FOR THEM ALSO?
W-WAIT, WHAT--?!

THIS ONE'S LOST A HAND. HE'LL BLEED OUT UNLESS HE GETS MEDICAL ATTENTION, AND FAST.
P-PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T KILL ME...
I-I'LL *TALK*, I SWEAR--!
YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH *SHUT*, YOU LITTLE WEASEL.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS.
GIVE THE WORD, LORD DAREDEVIL, AND WE SHALL *CULL* THEM LIKE *VERMIN*.
DECISION TIME, D.
YOU CHOSE THIS PATH. THE QUESTION IS...
...HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE IT?

THE LAW OFFICES OF NELSON, MURDOCK & BLAKE.
...AND HERE'S THE LAST OF THE APPEAL CASE FILES.
GEE.
THANKS, FOGGY.
I'M SO SORRY TO HAVE TO LEAVE YOU ALL THIS.
SERIOUSLY, BECKY, YOU SHOULD BRING IN SOME EXTRA HELP. YOU CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO HANDLE A TRIPLE WORK-LOAD ALL BY YOURSELF...
IT'S FINE. I'LL MANAGE. I ALWAYS DO.

HONESTLY, HOW DID THINGS GET SO BAD, SO QUICKLY...?
WELL, IF YOU'RE ACTUALLY *LOOKING* TO GET DISBARRED, *SLANDERING* A *JUDGE* IN *OPEN COURT* IS PRETTY MUCH THE QUICKEST WAY I KNOW.
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
IT SURE AS HELL SOUNDS LIKE IT.
YOU GOT YOURSELF *DISBARRED?*
WE'RE GOING TO APPEAL THE DECISION, BUT, YEAH...
SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE FIRM? I MEAN, OF *NELSON, MURDOCK AND BLAKE*, YOU'RE NOW DOWN TO JUST *BLAKE*.
I CAN KEEP THINGS TICKING OVER HERE, BUT IN ALL HONESTY...?
I'M NOT SURE WE'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD AN IN-HOUSE INVESTIGATOR ANYMORE. I'M SORRY, DAKOTA.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, I CAN LOOK AFTER MYSELF.
BUT LISTEN. I'LL BE AROUND IF YOU NEED ME-- EVEN IF IT HAS TO BE OFF THE BOOKS. OKAY?
OH, YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING...
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
THE STATE'S SAYING THERE WERE "IRREGULARITIES WITH THE SUBMISSION OF MY PAPER-WORK..."
THEY'RE REVOKING MY INVESTIGATOR'S LICENSE.
FIRST WE LOSE MATT, THEN ME, NOW YOU?
YOU EVER READ GOLDFINGER?
"ONCE IS HAPPENSTANCE. TWICE IS COINCIDENCE..."
"THREE TIMES IS ENEMY ACTION."

OSCORP CARGO DOCK.
MANHATTAN.
LOOKS LIKE ONE HELL OF A FIREFIGHT.
YEAH. WE GOT SPENT SHELL CASINGS ALL OVER THE PLACE. NINE MIL, 124-GRAIN GOLD DOT HOLLOW POINTS, ALL OF 'EM.
NYPD

IN OTHER WORDS, POLICE ISSUE. BUT WHOEVER THEY WERE SHOOTING AT WASN'T SHOOTING BACK...
WHAT ABOUT THE BLOOD-STAINS?
WE GOT SPATTER FROM, I DUNNO, MAYBE TEN, FIFTEEN DIFFERENT GUYS. IT'S A CHOW YUN FAT MOVIE.
GONNA TAKE US A WHILE TO SEQUENCE 'EM ALL.

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. A DOZEN COPS DON'T JUST UP AND DISAPPEAR IN THE MIDDLE OF A DRUG BUST.
BUT IF IT WENT BAD AND THEY WERE ALL KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY...
WHERE THE HELL ARE THE BODIES?

THIS...
THIS IS BAD.
THEY HAD IT COMING.
BUT THEY WERE *COPS!*
THEY WERE *SCUMBAGS* IS WHAT THEY WERE. WHAT SHOULD WE HAVE DONE, TURNED THEM IN TO THE AUTHORITIES?
H.A.M.M.E.R. WOULDA PUT 'EM RIGHT BACK ON THE STREET, AND YOU KNOW IT.
WE DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE.
YOU'RE NOT A FED ANYMORE, ANGIE. YOU GOTTA STOP THINKING LIKE ONE.
DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE TO STOP THINKING LIKE A *HUMAN BEING* TOO?

LOWER MANHATTAN.
YO, WAIT A SECOND. WHERE WE GOIN', MAN? THIS AIN'T THE WAY TO [illegible]
CHANGE OF PLAN. SHUT UP AN' PLAY NICE, AN' WHO KNOWS...
MAYBE CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY THIS YEAR.
NYC : CORRECTION
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...?
C'MON. WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT. EVERYBODY OUT AN' KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

MOSLEY, TODD.
NICE WORK. HERE'S YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN.
STILL, WE GOTTA MAKE IT LOOK REAL, Y'UNNERSTAND...?
AH, CRAP...
AWRIGHT, JUST...SPARE ME THE TEETH, WILL YA? DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS' DENTAL PLAN SUCKS.
AGH!
A'IGHT, MOSLEY, SO WHERE'S MY CUT?
NNNGH...
RIGHT HERE.
NNNNGH=-!

LIKE WE SAID, WE GOTTA MAKE IT LOOK REAL. LOOKS PRETTY REAL TA ME, HUH?
NOW YOU'RE AN ACCESSORY.
OH MY GOD--!
YO. SOMEBODY GONNA TELL ME JUST WHAT THE @#$% IS GOIN' ON HERE?
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? YOU JUST PULLED A GET-OUTTA-JAIL-FREE CARD.
'CEPT, UH... FREE AIN'T EXACTLY FREE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
TWO RULES. ONE, YOU STAY IN NEW YORK.
ANYONE TRIES TO SKIP TOWN, THEY END UP WITH A SECOND SMILE COURTESY A' MISTER TODD HERE.
TWO. YOU EARN.
PLAY THE TABLES. PULL DOWN SCORES. I DON'T CARE. BUT HALF YOUR TAKE GOES TO YOUR NEW BOSS.
NEW BOSS?
THE HOOD.
HE'S THE ONE WHO ARRANGED YOUR, UH... EARLY RELEASE FROM THE CARE OF THE STATE.
LET'S JUST SAY HE'S GOT FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES.
REAL HIGH PLACES.

KINGPIN.
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU HAVE MADE YOUR POSITIONS CLEAR.
BEGIN.
THIS IS WHERE YA GET YOURS, FAT MAN!
HKK!
OOOF--!

WHAT THE HELL...?
SOME OF THE OWL'S FORMER SUBORDINATES OBJECTED TO THE ORGANIZATION'S NEW LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE.
I FIND A *HANDS-ON* MANAGEMENT STYLE TENDS TO QUELL SUCH RESERVATIONS.
NOW, MOSLEY THE BUS.
UH--UH-- YEAH! PIECE O' CAKE, BOSS! THOSE CONS ARE WORKIN' FOR *US* NOW.
THING I DON'T GET, THOUGH--WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BUILDIN' A *POWER BASE* HERE, RIGHT...?
BUT HALF OF OUR GUYS THINK THEY'RE WORKIN' FOR THE *OWL* AN' THE OTHER HALF THINK THEY'RE WORKIN' FOR THE *HOOD*...
YOU MIND TELLIN' US *WHY?*
YOU GET TO HEAR THIS ONCE.
DON'T EVER QUESTION ME AGAIN.

INNER SANCTUM OF THE HAND.
THE FORCES OF LAW IN THIS CITY HAVE BECOME THE FORCES OF *INJUSTICE*.
ON THE STREETS THEY MAINTAIN THE ILLUSION OF ORDER, WHILE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, CRIME RUNS RAMPANT TO LINE THE POCKETS OF THOSE IN POWER.
THE POLICE, THE COURTS, THE JUDICIARY--ALL CORRUPT.
ALL OF THEM? WAIT, WE DON'T KNOW THAT--
THEY CAN'T BE TRUSTED. THEY CAN'T BE RELIED UPON. NOT ANY MORE.
AND WITHOUT JUSTICE, THIS CITY WILL TEAR ITSELF APART.
I WILL NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.
IF THE POLICE WILL NOT SAVE THIS CITY FROM ITSELF--*WE* WILL.

THEY THINK THEY CAN KILL WITH IMPUNITY. THEY THINK THEY HAVE NOTHING TO ■ AFRAID OF. THEY ARE *WRONG!*
WE SHALL BE THE THING TO FEAR! AND FEAR US THEY SHALL.
WE SHALL ■ THE VOICE OF THEIR CONSCIENCE. WE SHALL BE THE PAIN OF RETRIBUTION.
THE TIME FOR WAITING IS *OVER!* FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THE HAND WILL NO LONGER HIDE IN THE SHADOWS!
WE WILL *TAKE BACK* THE *STREETS!* STARTING *HERE--* IN *HELL'S KITCHEN!*
ARE YOU WITH ME?
AYE!
SWEAR YOUR ALLEGIANCE!
DAREDEVIL! DAREDEVIL! DAREDEVIL!

NOW, BEFORE WE BEGIN, THERE MUST BE BOUNDARIES.
BEFORE THE ENGAGEMENT AT THE DOCKS, I GAVE STRICT INSTRUCTIONS. YET ONE AMONG US TOOK A TROPHY. A HUMAN HAND.
LET THAT MAN STEP FORWARD.
FORGIVE ME, MY LORD. I SOUGHT ONLY TO HONOR YOU.
WE ARE NOT SAVAGES.
I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR WHERE THE LINE IS DRAWN. AND ANY ONE OF YOU WHO STEPS OVER THAT LINE WILL FIND ME WAITING FOR YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT.
MY--MY SHAME OVERWHELMS ME.
THERE CAN BE NO REDEMPTION.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WAIT--
NO--!
HNNGH

A-ALL HAIL--
L-LORD DAREDEVIL...
THIS... THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED.
YOU JOINED A LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS. WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
AND IF YOU THINK THINGS ARE UGLY NOW...
HOW MUCH WORSE DO YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING TO GET?
NEXT ISSUE: MARTIAL LAW!

The Devil's Notebook

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You guys have come out of the woodwork with a huge outpouring of mail relating to issue #501 and the first issue of the Andy and De la Torre's run. Before we get to you though, let me say a quick thanks to Marco Checchetto for helping us out with this issue. You'll see more of Marco in DD #505-507 in a special three-parter taking Matt to Japan for a deadly meeting with the Hand.

Got it? Good. Now you go:

To The Devil's Notebook,

Holy smokes! A fantastic issue written by Andy Diggle. I was sad to see Ed Brubaker leave the book and was skeptical of this new guy at first. I had never read Thunderbolts before (shame on me!), but once I read the *Dark Reign: Hawkeye* mini and the Daredevil issue of *The List*, I knew he would do DD justice. I'm looking forward to seeing where Andy takes Daredevil from here.

Evan Fowler
Seattle, WA

Dear Devil-heads,

Wow. That's the only word that comes to mind after issue # 501. From one of the best covers I've seen this year to the gritty-sweet art in the issue, my mind feels like it's in overdrive! (in a good way). Daredevil is always on the top of my list for Wednesdays and I think you guys will keep it there.

Also I'm glad to see you are returning to the Marvel tradition of letters pages. There aren't enough books with letters pages!

Mickey Thompson
Helenwood, TN

Thanks for the letter, Mickey. Those eye-popping covers are by Esad Ribic, an absolute gem of an artist from books such as *The List: Wolverine; Silver Surfer: Requiem; Loki* and an upcoming secret project from Axel's office that will knock everyone out. We were very lucky to have him for a few issues.

Dear Marvel,

I have been huge fan of the entire Daredevil universe for much of my lifetime. I remember watching the two episode run of the 80s Spider-Man television show with DD in it several times. I even enjoyed the recent movie when I saw it opening night. And I have just recently started to collect and read the comics starting with Brubaker's first, Cell Block D. And of course have read back to the start of volume 2 with Kevin Smith's arc. I always find it really exciting when new writers come on board just for the fact that it's a new vision and always a new way to look at the events and the character.

While I loved Ed Brubaker's run, I was excited for Andy Diggle to write a Daredevil story. I was a little worried after I read issue #500, but while reading issue #501 (with a big geeky grin, mind you) I could only think how awesome it was to see my favorite hero basically become a villain. I can't wait for issue #502 and I love where he is going with the characters.

About the rumors of the crossover event later in 2010: I have heard that it will involve the street level heroes and possibly the reaction to Daredevil become leader of The Hand. Though everyone would love to see a team-up with DD, I would drool for days to see Luke Cage and Iron Fist duke it out against the Hand and Daredevil.

Thanks for the constantly good writing, art, and stories.

Ben Croghan
Dubuque, IA

Ben, it's a little too early for specifics, but there is definitely something big brewing in 2010 for hornhead. In fact I just met with Diggle in the UK this past week to discuss some things. Stay tuned.

Dear Devil's Notebook.

Wow, Daredevil's leading The Hand! Maybe I should call him Lord Daredevil now. This development should make for some compelling stories. Is Izo really dead?

I know with The Hand being involved things may not be as they seem, but it seems like Matt is really crossing some major lines. He's in a very dark place right now. I'm curious to see how or even if he comes back into the light. I'm also glad to see Lady Bullseye is still involved. I think she's a great character. So far so good guys. Keep this up and I'll keep reading.

Chip Snyder
Bruce, Mississippi

Steve,

I started reading Daredevil with the first Bendis penned issue (#26) and my imagination was instantly captivated with the character and the storyline. It seemed such a daring idea to give Murdock's identity out to the criminal underground, but little did I know the title had been making daring decisions for years.

Having read the Frank Miller run, Kevin Smith, Mack and Brubaker's take on the character, I've been spoiled with great stories for years now. Recently -- just like I was when Bendis was leaving -- I was nervous to see how Andy Diggle was going to capitalize on the stellar run that preceded him. Adding to this worry was the "Matt takes over The Hand" storyline, which in my mind could have gone either way. I have to say, with what I have seen so far I am now convinced we will continue to get a strong run from the title.

Issue #501 still contained the things I love about Daredevil and his supporting cast and I get the feeling that we are in for a high speed and ultimately satisfying ride through Diggle's first arc. I hope Andy (and Roberto!) sticks around for a long while, to prove that he is worthy of the big shoes left for him to fill.

Stu Lilley
Liverpool, UK

That's it for this issue folks. See ya in 30.

Stephen Wacker
11/23/09

"I must be falling in love with him! Why else would such a shy, quiet handicapped man remind me of...of all people...the man called Daredevil??!"
-Karen Page, Daredevil #3

Cover by Esad Ribic.

NEXT ISSUE:

The Devil Laid Low

A GREEN GIANT SCAN

DCP

LIKE IT? BUY IT!